

**ABSTRACT**

A method of positioning a selected recording channel on a recording head relative to an optical servo system includes positioning the optical servo system at a first position relative to the selected recording, processing an alignment tape to determine a lateral offset between the optical servo system and the selected recording channel and positioning the optical servo system at a second position relative to the selected recording channel using the lateral offset. An alignment tape is also provided, which includes an elongated continuous web of flexible plastic substrate material having two edges and defining a front major surface and a back major surface, a magnetic storage medium formed on the front major surface, an inert medium formed on the back major surface and a track of alignment voids for indicating actual lateral displacement of the selected recording channel relative to the optical servo system.